

THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

No. 24. Vol. IV.]

WASHINGTON CITY, DECEMBER 13, 1817.

[Vol. II. FOR 1817

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JOEL E. MEAD, AT FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

COMMERCIAL.

We have repeatedly forwarned our mercantile men, as well as the community, of that natural decrease which our commercial relations with the world would take, arising from the general pacification of Europe, and the return of agricultural pursuits, which would ensue in states and kingdoms where the sword long held the place of the ploughshare.

In corroboration of our sentiments on this subject, we lay before our readers extracts of letters from Cadiz, dated in September and October, received from a respectable mercantile house, by a valuable correspondent in this district, with his remarks annexed.

Our Trade with Cadiz.—"Since last June, strange to tell, there has not arrived a cargo of flour, rice, indian corn, or staves; never was the trade of Cadiz of so little moment as it is at present; the patriotic privateers are in sight daily and capture the coasting vessels, as few others are left for them. The government have seized the 5 armed vessels which were fitted out by the merchants of Cadiz to give protection to the trade of this port, and have laid them up for want of money to fit them out, and have thus, not only ungenerously deprived the merchants of their property, but prevented them from making even the appearance of giving protection to their trade within their own waters! This act speaks a volume."

"Since my last a cargo of flour and one of rice have arrived, which are the first and only cargoes for some time; for the first, it is probable, will be obtained something more than \$ 13, and for the latter \$ 8 per 100 lbs. net, on board." A bad crop may create a temporary demand for the produce of the United States, but during a general peace it cannot be expected that we should enjoy that extensive commerce that we did during the war with Europe; at present the trade of the United States with Spain, and with Cadiz in particular, is at a very low ebb; indeed, it is nearly annihilated, which proceeds from the following causes:

First, In consequence of the general peace, Spain is supplied with large quantities of grain and pulse by other nations who could not supply them during the war, on better terms than we can supply them, and when their harvests are good they have the means of supplying their own wants within themselves; the great quantity of American produce which was exported to Spain during the war, was mostly consumed by the fleets and armies, a great quantity of which the

Spanish government have not paid for to this day, and the failure of their engagements prevents merchants from receiving government security, even for the small quantity which is in demand for the supply of the troops intended to subjugate their revolted colonies.

Second, Although his majesty gave particular orders to the present governor of Cuba to shut the ports of that island against all foreigners he found the state of the public mind to be such that he dare not put his instructions into execution, and the Spanish government did not think it expedient at the present critical moment to enforce obedience. Foreign vessels are not permitted to clear out at Cadiz for Havannah or Vera Cruz, but in a number of instances king's officers have taken passage in American vessels known to be bound there, although cleared out for other ports, and from the United States the trade is direct, consequently those articles which formerly were invariable shipped to Cadiz, and from thence re-shipped in Spanish bottoms to their colonies, now flow in another channel.

Third. A duty of \$ 3 20 cents is levied on each barrel of flour landed for the consumption of Cadiz, which at the present moment, when cash is so scarce in Spain, and prices so high as they have been in the United States, almost amounts to a prohibition of that article. Rice pays a duty of 70 cts. per 100 lbs. and is now selling from 7 to 8 dollars per 100 lbs. consequently gives little encouragement to speculators. Tobacco is monopolized by the government, and can only be sold to contractors at their own price, or landed for exportation at an enormous expense. The above-mentioned articles, with the exception of staves and lumber, with which they are now in a manner supplied from Hamburg and the northern nations, compose nearly the whole of our exports to Spain. Our returns from Cadiz are salt and Sherry wine, and latterly small quantities of fruit; but in general that article, brandy and red wine can be procured on much better terms at the ports in the Mediterranean; consequently, the trade of Cadiz, in peaceable times, and under existing circumstances, cannot be of great importance: to which we may add, that Gibraltar, being a free port in its vicinity, has latterly become a kind of depot for every article which pays a high duty, from whence those articles which can be carried on horse back are smuggled into the interior, and those which cannot, are introduced by small craft along the whole coast of Spain, and even to Cadiz and its vicinity.

The following additional remarks on the influence which the Porte possesses over the Barbary powers, and the policy pursued by these powers towards the Christian world are from the pen of the same gentleman who furnished us with the interesting information on this subject, contained in our 22d number, and which was intended to convey the benefits which they attached towards the United States from having an early and amicable understanding with the court of Constantinople. The presents made by the powers now ruling in France to the grand seignor, will shew the great consideration which they attached towards effecting a friendly relation with the Porte; and although we may not have exactly the same inducements or powerful interests to cultivate its friendship, or remove its resentment; yet, in a commercial view of the subject, to enjoy the advantages resulting from a treaty with the Ottoman empire, upon the same terms with other nations would certainly tend to benefit our commerce, and, in our opinion, more than repay us for the expense attending it. To those who have not read our twenty-second number we particularly refer them for the information there given, as relates to the trade and navigation of the Black Sea.

ADDITIONAL REMARKS CONCERNING THE PORTE, &c.

To the Editor of the *National Register*,

SIR—Notwithstanding the chastisement which the regency of Algiers received from the British admiral lord Exmouth, and the influence it had on the other Barbary states, they have lately, in defiance of their treaty with Great Britain, captured several vessels, and have even had the audacity to go as far as the British channel in search of their prey, and have thus re-established the former custom of enslaving the subjects of the nations with whom they think proper to be at war. That they never intended to observe the stipulations of their treaty with Great Britain longer than until they repaired the damages they had sustained and established a small navy, I predicted immediately after it took place; and in a letter to a distinguished citizen of the United States, dated Cadix, Sept. 23, 1816, with other matter is the following paragraph:

"An account of lord Exmouth's expedition against Algiers is enclosed with the treaty concluded with that regency; it sounds very well upon paper, but I doubt much whether the Dey will adhere to it," &c. In fact the Barbary states, and Algiers in particular, cannot exist under their present system, without committing depredations upon the Christian nations who deny them tribute, and at this moment nothing but the dread of our squadron in the Mediterranean prevents them from capturing our vessels, and enslaving our citizens. Were they to observe their treaty with

Great Britain as it relates to other nations, from whence are they to procure the immense presents which they are obliged to send to the Ottoman court? those presents formerly were supplied from the presents of those nations who paid them tribute, and from the sale of prizes and the redemption of the captives with those who did not. The present Dey must send presents to the Ottoman Porte, or he will not receive a caftan from thence, and delay would endanger his life; he therefore has recourse to the old way of providing them. It would be well, probably, if our vessels of war had power to search those marauders, and to take any of our own citizens out of them, should any be captured, but it would be the height of Quixotism to attempt to take any others; if we advert to the circumstances of the Tripolitan war, when we were left single handed, humanity itself would not recommend the measure."

The following extract of a letter from Constantinople, of the 23th of July, 1816, which was likewise forwarded with the treaty, will shew the magnitude of the presents sent by the late dey to the grand seignor, and will likewise serve to prove the correctness of my former position relative to the influence of the porte in the affairs of Barbary. It likewise gives an account of the presents given by France, on the restoration of Louis XVIII. which may form a scale of their expectations from other nations of greater or less magnitude.

"On the 16th instant, the marquis of Riviere, ambassador of France near the sublime porte received his first audience and delivered presents to the grand seignor, consisting of christal ornaments of the largest dimensions, silver lamps and candelabras gilt, and French cloths wove in the oriental taste. The sultan expressed his satisfaction at the re-establishment of the Bourbon dynasty, and the renewal of the amity which had always subsisted between the French monarchs of that house, and the Ottoman emperors."

"On the 22d the envoy from the regency of Algiers had a public audience and delivered presents from that regency to the amount of 1,500,000 dollars, comprising among various valuable articles a number of slaves, (negroes) of both sexes, three beautiful Barbary horses, richly caparisoned, fire arms mounted with gold and coral; a valuable diamond solitaire, a snuff box richly ornamented, which were presented in an elegant silver bason containing a number of coral and amber necklaces and other jewels of oriental taste; eight lions, four tigers and six ostriches; ten tigers' and ten leopards' skins; various robes exquisitely embroidered, and a number of barbary carpets of various colors.

On the same day the tersan emir (intendant of the arsenal) by order of the grand vizir, delivered over to Mr. Kletzl, the second drogoman, or interpreter, of the Austrian legation, in order that they might be presented to the Austrian ambassador, all those Christian slaves who were liberated in consequence of the grand seignior's firman, or order, to that regency; among whom were a number of foreigners, who had passed for Germans or Austrians."

"On the 14th, a fine ship of 74 guns was launched, the constructors and carpenters, who were mostly Frenchmen, were amply rewarded by order of the grand seignior.

THE DRAWING-ROOM.

The opening of the drawing-room and the course which Mrs. Monroe means to adopt in receiving the ladies of the district and strangers, has, for some time past been a subject of much inquiry and debate, if we are not misinformed, among the fashionables of Washington. We have ourselves repeatedly witnessed the introduction of this subject upon the tapis, and it has never failed to excite considerable interest and various opinions, and of late the sensation has been considerable, on learning that Mrs. M. does not mean to return visits, but merely to receive company.

We must, in truth, admit that the preponderance of opinion, as far as we have heard it expressed seems to set more against than in favor of the adoption of this measure, but, perhaps, this is owing to the want of giving the subject due reflection, and from the warmth which is excited in the discussion of a question in which female pride and prerogative bears so great an interest. We are far from advocating the introduction of *courtly etiquettes* and unnecessary ceremonies in our republican institutions, but we shall always uphold and contend for propriety of behavior and respectful conduct. We are far from wishing to decorate or encircle Mrs. Monroe, or any other Presidentess with *royal insignia*, but at the same time we hope we have too much justice to ask from the lady of our chief magistrate, a conduct and a sacrifice which we should consider as cruel to exact from the wife of any other citizen.

"What!" exclaimed a lady in the height of irritation, "and is Mrs. Monroe about to pursue a course so opposite to that of her predecessor? A course which made her so beloved by us all, and which rendered her so amiable in the eyes of every visitor at Washington. If such be her plans, I answer for one, she will not hold her popularity long.

Reflecting on this speech, and not wishing that either our chief magistrate or his consort should lose their popularity unjustly, we gave some consideration to the subject, and we began first by

tracing, in our mind, the origin of the drawing room which led us back to the days of our beloved Washington, when all attempts at introducing a *court etiquette* for the house of the chief magistrate was ridiculed on republican principles, and on the ground that the respect we should always entertain for the man of the people's choice, would in all cases govern our deportment towards him, and every individual of his family. Notwithstanding, however, that this subject had been fully discussed, and conclusions drawn therefrom, a few persons acted in contradiction thereto, and in fact to the very spirit of our government, and attempted to make comparisons between the upper and lower houses, and between the wives of senators and those of representatives, and between them and the wives of the heads of department, and between these and the wives of citizens. Gen. Washington, to put an end to all these intrigues and cabals, established a levee for himself, and Mrs. Washington was instructed to visit the ladies of all the senators, members of the lower house and those of respectable citizens without distinction. This was the origin of the drawing room.

When Mr. Adams succeeded to the presidency the same arrangements were observed, with this difference, that strict attention was paid that no gentleman should be admitted to the drawing room, who had not been previously introduced to the president at his levee. Parties running high at that time, some of the persons about president Adams and his lady gave such decided marks of disapprobation, when certain members of the opposition appeared, that they soon deserted the drawing room and levees, and rendered both arrangements unpopular. This probably introduced the idea that they savored so much of aristocracy that when the sage of Monticello came into office he abolished both, and with all the deference and respect which we shall ever retain for the acts of that illustrious statesman, went, in our opinion, rather on the other extreme. He received any body and every body, in his cabinet, setting room, or breakfast room, whether dressed or in his morning gown and slippers, just as they happened to call, and he cared not whether they came in boots or shoes, muddy or clean, with a black handkerchief or muslin cravat.

When Mr. Madison came into power, new arrangements were deemed necessary, and a middle course between General Washington's and Mr. Jefferson's mode was adopted. The levee of the former was abolished, and the drawing room preserved. As at this time the whole population of the district of Columbia scarcely comprised more inhabitants than is now contained in Georgetown, Mrs. Madison, in the bloom of health, and with a constitution capable of supporting any fatigue

commenced her career by visiting all the ladies of our citizens; as also, those of strangers who might arrive at the metropolis. With how much address she acquitted herself, and with how much ease "she stooped to conquer," is fresh in our remembrance, and will long continue as a pleasing recollection.

But we must all of us remember, at the same time, how many privations she suffered as our population increased and the influx of strangers augmented. What was begun as a pleasure became a serious and severe duty, and in the end a laborious task. She had commenced, however, and she could not retreat; and towards the end of Mr. Madison's administration she had not an hour she could call her own, performing a tour of duty which not one woman in a thousand could support.

Having thus traced through four administrations the measures thought fit to be adopted, by which we were to arrive at the families of our chief magistrates, and observing each of them to vary with circumstances, why should we be so unjust as not to allow the same liberty of alteration at the present day? But let us even suppose that Mrs. Monroe could, without the sacrifice of her health and constitution, perform the fatiguing duty of driving all day long, through frost and snow, from the centre to every extreme of the district, to return visits of courtesy; is it a task fitting to be imposed upon her? or is it desirable that the lady of the chief magistrate should be seen driving like an Estafette over the extensive grounds which include the district, in order to maintain a punctilious ceremony, in which, even taking the very horses into consideration, there is more virtue in "the breach than in the observance?"

Besides, the population of Washington and the district is rapidly and daily increasing, and this is a ceremony which must, from the nature of things, be, in time, abolished; one which no human being, not even a Hercules, much less a delicate female could accomplish.

The season, therefore, strikes us not only as being favorable to such an alteration, but as requiring it; and we have no hesitation to believe that even those who have expressed sentiments very uncongenial to such an order of things will, upon cool consideration see their "moral fitness," and own, without hesitation, that to exact from the lady of the President sacrifices which no citizen, who had a regard for his wife, would suffer her to perform, would be an act of injustice of the highest grade, and instead of honoring the family of the man of the people's choice, would be treating it with contumely and degradation.

If rumor speaks correctly in public society, and we have no reason to doubt it, Mrs. Monroe is at

home in the morning to receive all those calls which the ladies of the district, or strangers may please to make; and the President receives the heads of department and the members of our government at all hours in the day, and strangers and citizens between one and two. In these receptions there is no display of unnecessary ceremony or etiquette, but every thing to prove that the attentions of their fellow citizens are grateful to their feelings and unostentatiously desired.

TREASURY REPORT.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, TO THE TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS.

Treasury Department, Dec. 5, 1817.

SIR—I have the honor to enclose a report, prepared in obedience to the act, entitled "An act to establish the treasury department."

I have the honor to be.

Very respectfully, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

WM. H. CRAWFORD.

The hon. the President of the Senate.

REPORT.

In obedience to the directions of the "Act supplementary to an act to establish the treasury department," the secretary of the treasury respectfully submits the following report and estimates:

REVENUE.

The net revenue arising from duties upon imports and tonnage, internal duties, direct tax, public lands, postage and incidental receipts, during the year 1815, amounted to \$49,552,852 02

viz:—

Customs	36,305,231 77
Internal duties	5,963,225 88
Direct tax	5,723,152 23
Public lands, exclusive of those in the state of Mississippi and Alabama territory	1,287,939 28
Postage and incidental receipts	275,282 84

And that which accrued from the same sources, during the year 1816, amounted to 36,743,574 07

viz:—

Customs, (see statement A)	27,569,769 71
Internal duties, (see statement B)	4,596,133 25
Direct tax, (see statement C)	2,785,343 20
Public lands, exclusive of those in the state of Mississippi & the Alabama territory, (see statement D)	1,754,487 33
Postage and incidental receipts	237,840 53

It is ascertained that the gross amount of duties on merchandize and tonnage, which have accrued during the three first quarters of the present year exceed \$ 17,000,000; and that the revenue arising from internal duties and from the public lands during the same period, exceed that of the corresponding quarters of the year 1816.

The balance in the treasury, on the first day of January, 1817, exclusive of \$ 10,665,287 39, in treasury notes of every description, amounted to 11,295,592 86.

The payments in the treasury during the three first quarters of the year are estimated to amount to 27,095,984 14

viz:—

Customs 21,732,068 22

Internal revenue & direct tax 3,480,173 43

Public lands exclusive of those in the state of Mississippi and the Alabama 1,326,077 41

Postage & incidental receipts 26,913 93

Repayments into the treasury 530,751 13

And the payments into the treasury, during the 4th quarter from the same sources, are estimated at 5,980,000 00

Making the total amount estimated to be received into the treasury, during the year 1817, amount to 33,075,984 14

Which, added to the sum in the treasury on the 1st day of January last, makes the aggregate amount of 44,371,577 00

The application of this sum, for the year 1817, is estimated as follows,

viz:—

To the 30th September the payments have amounted to 32,710,002 98

viz:

Civil, diplomatic and miscellaneous expenses, exclusive of 375 thousand dollars paid to the state of Georgia from the proceeds of the Mississippi lands 2,798,248 75

Military services including arrears 7,105,816 90

Naval service 2,044,474 25

Public debt exclusive of

\$3,592,927

and 60 cts.

of treasury notes which have been cancelled in due course of settlement 20,761,462 98

During the fourth quarter, it is estimated that the payments will amount to 5,660,000 00

Civil, diplomatic and miscellaneous expenses 600,000

Military services 1,110,000

Naval services 1,300,000

Public debt to the 1st Jan. 1818, inclusive 2,680,000

Making the aggregate amount of 38,370,002 88

And leaving on that day, exclusive of \$ 8,682,697 70, in treasury notes, which are in a train of settlement, in order to be cancelled, a balance in the treasury of 6,001,575 88

OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The funded debt, contracted before the year 1812, which was unredeemed on the 1st day of October, 1816, as appears by statement (1) amounted to 37,494,267 01

By the same statement it appears that the funded debt, contracted subsequent to the 1st day of Jan. 1812, amounted to 71,201,551 28

Making, together, the sum of 108,695,818 21

To which must be added the temporary loan from the Cumberland bank of 50,000 00

Making the aggregate amount of 108,745,818 29

On the 1st day of January, 1817, there was added to the above amount, including 7,000,000 of five per cent. stock, subscribed to the bank, and including also a temporary loan from the bank of 500,000 dollars, the sum of 7,877,471 61

From which deduct the amount of the old six per cent. and deferred stock reimburs'd between the 1st day of Oct. and the 1st day of Jan. 1817, inclusive

amounting to 815,484 42

Leaving the sum of 7,061,987 19

Making the public debt, which was unredeemed on the 1st day of Jan. 1817, as appears by statement (2) amount to 115,907,805 48

From the 1st day of Jan. to the 30th day of Sept. 1817, inclusive, there was, by funding treasury notes, added to the public debt, as appears by statement (6) the amount of 1,097,315 43

Making on that day, as appears by statement (4) the aggregate amount of 116,905,120 91

During the same period there was purchased and redeemed of the public debt, including \$550,000 of the temporary loans, the sum of 16,993,275 50

Which deducted from the amount of the public debt, last stated, leaves unredeemed, on the 1st day of Oct. 1817, as per statement (3) the amount of 99,911,845 41

Since the 30th Sept. there has been purchased or redeemed of the principal of the public debt, as appears by statement (5) the amount of 833,236 16

And there will be reimbursed for the principal of the old six per cent. and deferred stock, to the 1st day of Jan. 1818, inclusive, the amount of 709,513 70

Making, together 1,042,748 86

Which being deducted from the aggregate amount of the public debt, on the 1st Oct. there will remain unredeemed, on the 1st Jan. 1818, the sum of 98,869,096 55

By the same statement (5) it appears that the principal of the public debt, purchased and redeemed, during the year 1817, including \$550,000 dollars of temporary loans, amounts to 18,036,023 72

In this sum is included all the funded debt held by the bank of the United States.

The old six per cent. stock will be redeemed in the course of the year 1818. The first instalment of the Louisiana debt falls due on the 21st day of October of that year. According to the terms of the convention, this debt is to be discharged by annual instalments of not less than three millions each. It is therefore presumed that, consistently with the letter of the convention, the whole debt cannot be discharged in one payment. But for this obstacle, in the present state of the treasury,

and under the existing provisions of the sinking fund, the whole amount of the stock might be redeemed on the 21st day of October next. It is believed that neither the letter or spirit of the convention forbids the redemption of that stock in two annual instalments, by which the whole debt will be redeemed on the 21st day of October, 1819.

After the redemption of the Louisiana stock, there is no part of the principal of the public debt redeemable at the will of the government until the 1st day of January, 1825, except the six per cent. stock subscribed to the bank of the United States. As the commissioners of the sinking fund are not authorized to redeem the five per cent. stock, the permanent annual appropriation of 10,000,000 of dollars, from the year 1819 to 1825, under the existing laws, can only be applied to the payment of the interest of the public debt, and to the gradual reimbursement of the principal of the six per cent. and deferred stock; and will leave, during that period, an annual surplus of nearly five millions of dollars.

During the year 1825, the exchanged six per cent. stock, the six per cent. stock of 1812, and the stock created by funding treasury notes, amounting together to \$18,895,456 23, will be redeemable. To the redemption of the whole of this stock, within that year, the sinking fund, by the aid of its surpluses, will not only be entirely adequate, but will be amply sufficient to redeem the remainder of the public debt, at the several periods at which the different stocks of which it is composed become redeemable. The whole debt, including the five per cent. stock, will be extinguished during the year 1830, except the three per cent. stock, which is not redeemable at the will of the government.

It is not presumed that taxes will be imposed and collected, for the express purpose of purchasing the funded debt above its nominal value. It is, however, believed to be unsafe to reduce the revenue below the permanent annual expenditure as now authorized by law, including the appropriation constituting the sinking fund. A reduction below that amount would postpone the redemption of the public debt beyond the periods when the several loans of which it is composed become redeemable, or impose upon the legislature the duty of resorting to them anew for that object.

If, then, the revenue shall, until the year 1825, be equal to the present annual expenditure, it is respectfully suggested, whether the public interest will not be promoted, by authorizing the commissioners of the sinking fund to purchase the funded debt at such rates above par, as in their judgment will be for the interest of the nation, rather than to suffer the surplus of the sinking fund to remain in the treasury, unapplied, for five successive years. Should such an authority be given to the commissioners of the sinking fund, it is probable that the different species of stock would advance in price above their present current value; but as the authority would be permissive, not imposing the obligation to purchase, it is probable that the surplus of the sinking fund might be more beneficially employed in purchasing the public debt, than by remaining idle in the treasury until the year 1825. If that surplus could be annually invested, early in each year, at the present prices of the different species of stock, it would produce a saving to the nation of not less than four millions of dollars, between the 1st days Jan

1830, and 1825. The interest which will accrue on the five per cent. stock, between the 1st days of January, 1820, and 1825, when it is estimated the whole redeemable debt will be discharged, will amount to \$ 3,500,000; if, therefore, it is intended to redeem that stock, the surplus in the sinking fund may be legitimately applied to that object, during the years 1820 and 1821.

By statement (8) it appears that the treasury notes which have issued under the several acts of congress on that subject, have amounted to

36,133,794

Of which there has been cancelled at the treasury

26,574,431

There is now in the treasury, which will be cancelled when settled, exclusive of \$ 422,519 77, the estimated interest upon them, the amount of

8,623,400

Making together the sum of

35,497,831

Leaving outstanding, an estimated balance of

635,963

As the outstanding treasury notes are convertible into funded debt, which is considerably above par, it is presumed that such portion of them as are not lost or destroyed, will be funded, instead of being paid into the treasury in discharge of duties and taxes. It is, therefore, probable that an addition to the public debt will be made during the year 1818, nearly equal to the treasury notes estimated to be outstanding.

Statement (E) presents the state of the land offices in the state of Mississippi and in the Alabama territory, from which it appears that the receipts into the treasury have amounted to \$ 1,124,100 81, of which \$ 431,120 were in Mississippi stock.

From the proceeds of the sales of these lands, there has been paid to the state of Georgia the sum of \$ 688,441 33, and there has been transferred to the state by the commissioners of the United States, under the act compromising the Yazoo claims, that part of the original purchase money remaining in the state treasury, amounting to \$ 184,515 94, making together the sum of 872,957 27, and leaving still due to the state the sum of 377,042 73 which is now ready to be paid under the provisions of the act of the third of March last.

By statement (7) it appears that the Mississippi stock, awarded by the commissioners amounted to

4,278,434

From which deduct the amount received into the treasury

431,120

Leaves outstanding the sum of

3,747,314

Which it is estimated will be received into the treasury during the two succeeding years, in payment of the public lands in the state of Mississippi, and in the Alabama territory, or will be discharged by payments from the treasury out of the proceeds of the sales of those lands.

Of the estimates of the public revenue and expenditures for the year 1818.

The importation of foreign merchandize during the years 1815 and 1816, so greatly exceeded what was presumed to be equal to the annual average consumption, that a general impression was pro-

duced that the importation during the present year would fall greatly below that demand. Under this impression the revenue accruing from that source, for the year 1817, was, in the annual report of the treasury, of the 16th of December, 1816, estimated at \$ 12,000,000. But it is ascertained that the gross revenue arising from that source during the three first quarters of the year, have exceeded \$ 17,000,000, and it is estimated that that of the whole year will exceed 22,000,000.

It is presumed that the importation from the East Indies during the present year, greatly exceed those which will take place during several consecutive years; and that the reaction produced by the excessive importations of 1815 and 1816, has in some degree been diminished by that circumstance. There is however just ground to believe that the revenue derived from this source will not, for any given series of years, fall below that of the present year. Considering that this revenue, during the year 1807 (the last year that our commerce was not greatly embarrassed by belligerent aggression) exceeded 16,000,000; that the duties then imposed are considerably augmented by the present tariff; and that our population has increased more than thirty per cent. carrying with it, in the same degree, an increase of the means of procuring foreign articles, with an undiminished relish for their consumption; it is presumed that the revenue from that source, during the present year, will be found to be less than that of any number of successive years.

According to these views the permanent annual revenue may be estimated to

24,525,000 00

Viz.

Customs,	20,000,000
Internal duties,	2,500,000
Public lands, exclusive of the Mississippi and Alabama lands,	1,500,000
Bank dividends at 7 per cent.	490,000
Postage and incidental receipts	35,000

And the payments into the treasury during the year 1818, may be estimated at the same amount

To which add the balance estimated to be in the treasury on the first day of January, 1818,

6,000,000 00

Making together the sum of

30,525,000 00

The probable authorized demands upon the treasury during the year 1818, are estimated to amount to

21,946,351 74

Viz:—

Civil, miscellaneous, diplomatic and foreign intercourse	2,069,843 29
Military services, including an arrearage of five hundred thousand dollars	6,265,132 25
Naval service including one million of dollars for the gradual increase of the navy	3,611,376 20
Public debt	10,000,000 00

Which, being deducted from the amount estimated to be received into the treasury, including

the balance on the 1st of January, 1818, leaves, on the 1st of January, 1819, a balance in the treasury of 8,578,648 dollars 26 cents, which, however, will be applied to the redemption of the Louisiana stock, under the provisions of the act for the redemption of the public debt, passed the 3d day of March, 1817, as far as those provisions will admit. All which is respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD.

Treasury Department, }
Dec. 5, 1817. }

VIRGINIA.

MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR TO THE LEGISLATURE.

Council Chamber, }
Dec. 1, 1817. }

*Fellow citizens of the Senate,
and of the House of Delegates,*

IN discharge of my duty, in conformity to the established custom of all my predecessors in office, I venture to address a few remarks to you upon the commencement of your legislative labors. The happy constitution under which we live has most wisely provided against the innumerable evils which would have resulted from blending executive, legislative and judicial powers and duties. The executive at all times scrupulously regarding that constitution or form of government, consecrated in their affections by its being an inheritance, which descended to them from their revolutionary fathers, securing to them their rights and liberties; and witnessing, as they have done, under the wisdom of its institutions, the rapid advancement of the state to the high and honorable reputation which it sustains, would be the last to encroach upon its principles. They would therefore deem it their duty to avoid every suggestion which would have the appearance of giving a bias to the legislative will. While they thus regard the rights of every department of government, and of every individual in it, they will be prompt to feel and ready to discharge, to the best of their abilities, the high and responsible obligations imposed upon them and their department by the constitution.

Happily for our beloved country, it no longer groans under the horrors of a relentless, vindictive and cruel war. Her councils are undisturbed by the turmoils of passion and violence; and that hydra, party spirit, is no longer seen to rear its baneful head among us. The fiscal operations of our government are prosperous, and between every department there prevails a perfect cordiality. The reign of reason and of justice, and of intellectual power, is again acknowledged and restored. The agriculturalist is in the full enjoyment of the abundant fruits of his toil; the mechanic is rapidly increasing in wealth by his labor and industry; the merchant reaps the advantage of a widely extended and almost unlimited commerce, and receives the just reward of his enterprise. Every condition of society is in the perfect enjoyment of every immunity that appertains to it. Our national character having been exposed during the late war to the severest trials, and having stood the test, has justly inspired the people with an increased confidence, esteem and affection for their government, and has excited and commands the admiration and respect of foreign nations. How delightful is this state of things to the heart of the philanthropic legislator, contrasted with the dreary

scene which our country exhibited to his view, during the war, from which we have but just emerged! Whilst we are thus individually, and as a nation, permitted to repose in undisturbed tranquillity under our own "vine and fig tree," and there are none to make us afraid," protected by the wisdom of these institutions which are bottomed on equal rights, maintaining our religious and civil liberties, insuring the invaluable privilege of self government, the only legitimate government on earth; are we not bound to bow with humility and reverence to that GOD who bountifully sustains us in the enjoyment of those inestimable blessings, and to testify our gratitude to him by the *practice of every virtue*, and of every *christian charity* which distinguishes his peculiar people?

The first subject that naturally suggests itself to the mind of an enlightened legislature as of primary importance, is that which relates to the personal security and the sovereignty of that community which has entrusted them, as representatives, with the management of public concerns. As the militia, which is composed of the great mass of our citizens, constitutes the natural defence of a free state; it is upon them that a reliance must always be placed, for the attainment of those great objects. It is unnecessary to go into tedious details upon the effects of our militia laws, which are obviously known and felt to be expensive, harassing, and perfectly delusive, as to the objects of subordination and discipline. Our revolution and the late war seem to have demonstrated to the world the vital importance of this species of military character, and how much it may be relied upon when properly directed. The present legislature will therefore be disposed to give the subject the consideration due to it; nor will they, I hope, permit this period of tranquillity, so favorable to temperate discussion and deliberation, to pass away without devising and maturing some system which will be better calculated to inspire individual and public confidence, and to insure a perfect protection to the state from every danger that it may hereafter be exposed to, either from invasion, insurrection, or usurpation—or any other unfortunate vicissitude.

Every exertion has been made by the executive, through the adjutant, quarter-master and commissary general of ordnance, to have all the ordnance, the arms and accoutrements, the military stores, camp equipage, &c. belonging to the state, so disposed of as to be preserved from damage. I fear however, from the difficulty and impossibility, under the law, of fixing upon the responsible persons to whom arms have been distributed, in consequence of deaths, resignations and removals, that a very considerable loss to the state must accrue. The completion of the arsenal in Lexington will hereafter partially guard against a continuance of the evil.

From the present strength of the public guard, being, as I conceive, inefficient for any military purpose whatever, even for the purpose of properly guarding the public edifices, and public property in this city; I submit to the legislature, the propriety of discontinuing the establishment. The executive, in conformity to the law of the last session, appointed five persons who constituted a board of directors to superintend and manage the affairs of the penitentiary. I regret to say, that there was a difficulty in procuring the services of such gentlemen as were selected for the execution

tion of the law. I am led to believe that their regard for the institution, and a sense of the necessity which the case imposed alone induced the acceptance of the appointment. Patriotism may sometimes be found to supply every object of public concern; but it is questionable whether it is a sufficient stimulus at all times to command public service.

By a report of the superintendent of the armory which I shall hereafter have the honor of submitting to the legislature will have it more completely in their power to judge of the operations and present state of that institution.

The board of public works, are ardently disposed to cherish that spirit of internal improvement which has been so happily diffused through every section of the state, have occupied the talents of their public engineer upon those objects which they deemed of primary importance to the public interest. His surveys, plans and reports, of all the objects that have engaged his attention, shall in due time be submitted for the inspection and consideration of the legislature. This policy, which has for its object the promotion of individual wealth and industry, and which cannot fail to elevate the character of the state abroad—which it perseveringly prosecuted, will enable us to make a proud comparison of our efforts with those of our sister states, cannot but command an important share of your deliberations.

The executive, as soon as it was in their power, proceeded to execute the law, (as far as it depended on them) "for arranging the counties into districts, for the election of senators, and for equalizing the land tax. Reports have been received from not more than half the counties in the state, announcing the completion of the assessment. Whenever the whole of the assistant assessors shall have reported the assessment completed, the provisions of the law will be promptly executed.

Under a law of the last session, entitled "An act to repeal in part an act entitled 'An act to provide an accurate chart of each county and a general map of the territory of this commonwealth,'" the executive proceeded to define the work which would be required, and had it published in the newspapers of the state, with a view to receive proposals from such as might be disposed to contract with them for its execution. Proposals have been received from a few persons, but no contract has yet been entered into in relation to the subject. The surveys heretofore contracted for, are progressing.

I had hoped that it would have been certainly in my power to have informed the legislature that our claims on the general government, were finally adjusted and closed by payment. Although large sums have been received during the summer, from the general government, yet I am informed by Mr. Chew, the commissioner for adjusting the claims, that on account of the informality of returns and vouchers, and from the press of business from other states of a similar nature upon the offices at the city of Washington, considerable sums remain suspended.

He further informs me that every exertion is making on his part to bring the accounts speedily to a close, and that he is aided, as far as it is in their power, by the clerks and officers concerned.

It is with great mortification that I am compelled to suggest my fears that the mode pro-

posed for the erection of a monument to the memory of general George Washington, by voluntary subscription, will not succeed. The executive appointed two or more persons, the most distinguished and influential in each county in the state, to receive donations. In hopes that their weight of character and exertions would excite those around, to pay that tribute which is so justly due to the memory of a man who is the acknowledged savior of his country, and the purest patriot and brightest ornament that ever adorned human nature.

The lamented death of Griffin Stith, esq. one of the judges of the general court, occasioned a vacancy during the recess of the legislature, which the executive filled by the appointment of Richard E. Parker, "to be approved or displaced by both houses."

I have to communicate to the legislature, the death of brig. gen. Francis M. Boykin, which occasions a vacancy in the eighth brigade of Virginia militia: this vacancy will be filled during the present session, by an appointment from the general assembly.

The resignation of Nathaniel H. Claiborne, esq. long a member of the privy council, occasions the necessity of filling that vacancy.

A few days hence, I shall have the honor of submitting to the legislature, some other matters that have been received by this department, which I deem it my duty to communicate.

*Fellow citizens of the Senate,
and of the house of Delegates,*

Upon a review of our past and present condition, we must acknowledge that no period has ever been afforded so peculiarly auspicious for the promotion and advancement of those great and important objects, that so intimately concern the perpetuation of our government, our present and future happiness, as well as our dearest interests.

In this rising republic, every man is born with equal claims to the highest offices in the gift of the government. Virtue and talents alone can insure public patronage, and united, may aspire to the most distinguished employments. You have it in your power by laying a broad foundation for the rearing of genius and the cultivation of the human mind, to raise to yourselves an everlasting monument, an imperishable fame. You have the right, and your constituents have afforded you the means, through a proper use of the literary fund, of emancipating the human mind from the gloomy bondage of ignorance. They look to you and you are accountable to them at least, for the performance of this all-important and sacred duty. Remember, that we owe our present happy form of government, our liberties, both civil and religious, to the talents and genius and virtue of our predecessors. They have solemnly warned us that these blessings can only be perpetuated through the means by which they were attained. Cease to cultivate the mind and heart, and your liberties are lost forever.

Then pardon me, for endeavoring so fervently to impress upon you, that you owe to the rising generation and to posterity, as legislators, an obligation so solemn and so sacred as that which relates to their education, and the attainment of knowledge. In vain shall we transmit them the blessings of a free government, which have cost our forefathers so much blood and treasure to establish and preserve, if we do not inspire

them with the capacity of enjoying it through the means of liberal and patriotic feelings and expanded minds. Give them to all, rich and poor equally, and your legislative labors will be blessed and perpetuated, and your country rewarded, in the honest, liberal, independent and faithful discharge of your duty.

JAMES P. PRESTON.

NATIONAL LEGISLATURE.

FIRST SESSION—FIFTEENTH CONGRESS.

SENATE.

Public Documents.

Friday, Dec. 5—Mr. Dagget, offered a resolution authorizing the distribution of the public documents printed by T. B. Wait of Boston, which was passed to a second reading.

Standing Committees, and Chaplain.

The motion for the appointment of standing committees was next called up, and Tuesday next being fixed upon when to proceed to their appointment, the motion was agreed to. And on motion of Mr. Wilson; a resolution passed to appoint a chaplain on Monday next. And then the senate adjourned.

Monday, Dec. 8—The president of the senate communicated the annual treasury report which was read.

Mr. Dagget's resolution, for the distribution of the public documents, was read a second time, and referred to a select committee.

Collection of Duties.

The following motion was submitted by Mr. Stanford, for consideration:

Resolved, That the committee of Finance inquire what alterations or amendments may be required in the present system of collecting the duties charged on the value of merchandize imported into the United States, and what further legal provisions are necessary, in order to secure the equal and certain collection of those duties.

Amendment to the Constitution.

Mr. Burdett of Va. gave notice that he should ask leave to-morrow to bring in a resolution proposing to the several states an amendment to the constitution of the United States, on the subject of internal improvements.

The appointment of a chaplain, was deferred until to-morrow. And the senate adjourned.

Tuesday, Dec. 9—Mr. Barbour, in pursuance of the given yesterday, introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That the following amendment to the constitution of the United States, be proposed to the legislatures of the several states, which, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the states, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as a part of the said constitution: "Congress shall have power to pass laws appropriating money for constructing roads and canals, and improving the navigation of water courses. *Provided, however*, that no road or canal, shall be conducted in any state, nor the navigation of its waters improved without the consent of such state. *And provided, also*, that whenever congress shall appropriate money to these objects, the amount thereof shall be distributed among the several states, in the ratio of representation which each state shall have in the most numerous branch of

the national legislature—but the portion of any state, with its own consent, may be applied to the purpose aforesaid, in any other state."

The resolution lies on the table for consideration.

On balloting for a chaplain on the part of the senate, the reverend Mr. Hawley, pastor of St. John's Church in this city, was duly elected.

Wednesday, Dec. 10—A resolution was received from the house for distributing the laws of the United States among the members of the fifteenth congress.

The resolution offered yesterday by Mr. Barbour, for an amendment to the constitution, was read a second time, and committed to Messrs. Barbour, King, Lacey, Macon, and Eyles.

State of Mississippi.

A message from the house informed the senate, that the house had passed the resolution for admitting the state of Mississippi into the Union on the footing of the original states.

Survey of Military Bounty Lands.

Mr. Morrill, of Ohio, submitted the following motion for consideration:

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to communicate to the senate such information as he may possess relating to the progress made in surveying the several tracts of military bounty lands appropriated by congress, in the state of Indiana, and the Missouri territory, for the late army of the United States, and the time at which such surveys will probably be completed.

Public Accounts.

Mr. Sanford, of New York, submitted the following motion:

Resolved, That the secretary of the treasury be directed to lay before the senate information of the progress which has been made in the settlement of public accounts, under the act, "to provide for the prompt settlement of public accounts," and that he also state what further legal provision may be, in his opinion, necessary to insure their speedy settlement.

The senate then adjourned.

Thursday, Dec. 11—There was received and communicated by the president of the senate, a report of the secretary of the treasury, comprehending an account of the fund appropriated for the safe keeping and accommodation of prisoners of war, which was read.

State of Mississippi.

The president of the United States having notified his approbation of the resolution for the admission of the state of Mississippi into the Union.

Mr. Walter Leake and Mr. Thomas H. Williams, senators for the said state, appeared and took their seats.

Military Bounty Lands &c.—The senate proceeded to consider the resolution yesterday offered by Mr. Morrill, requesting information respecting military bounty lands, and agreed to the same, after amending it, on the motion of Mr. Morrow.

The senate resumed the consideration of the motion of the 10th instant, for information relating to the prompt settlement of public accounts, and agreed thereto.

Committees.

The following standing committees were appointed by ballot:

On our Foreign Relations—Messrs. Barbour, Macon, Troup, King, Lacey,

On Finance—Messrs. Campbell, Eppes, King, Talbot, Macon.

On Commerce and Manufactures—Messrs. Sanford, Horsey, Morrill, Burrill, Dickerson.

On the Judiciary—Messrs. Crittenden, Burrill, Otis, Smith, Leake.

On Military Affairs—Messrs. Troup, Williams, Tenn. Tiehenor, Lacock, Taylor.

On Naval Affairs—Messrs. Tait, Sanford Crittenden, Dagget, Williams, Mis.

On the Militia—Messrs. Storer, Noble, Roberts, Macon, Ruggles.

On the Public Lands—Messrs. Morrow, Fisk, Taylor, Williams, Mis. Hunter.

On Claims—Messrs. Roberts, Morrill, Ruggles, Goldsborough, Wilson.

On Pensions—Messrs. Noble, Storer, Lacock, Van Dyke, Talbot.

On the Post Office—Messrs. Wilson, Ashmun, Fisk, Ruggles, Stokes.

On the District of Columbia—Messrs. Goldsborough, Dagget, Eppes, Barbour, Stokes.

And the Senate adjourned.

Captain Heath and Commodore Perry.

Friday, Dec. 12.—The president of the senate communicated two memorials of officers of the navy and of the marine corps, then serving in the Mediterranean, remonstrating in strong terms against the treatment received by captain Heath of the marine corps, from commodore Perry, and the proceedings thereon, and in one or two other cases.

A motion was made by Mr. Goldsborough, to prefer these memorials to the naval committee, on which question a debate arose, which terminated in a postponement of the subject to Monday.

[For captain Heath's statement of the affair to which the above alludes, see page 4, of the present vol. of the National Register, headed "serious charges."]

Bankruptcy, Piracy, Offences, &c.

Mr. Daggett, submitted for consideration the following resolution;

Resolved, That the committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of passing a law on the subject of bankruptcies, and if they judge it expedient, to report a bill for that purpose; also, that the aforesaid committee enquire into the expediency of further provision by law for the punishment of offences committed in places within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States; also, into the necessity of further defining piracy, and other offences committed on the high seas, and into any defects existing in the laws of the United States, for the punishment of crimes and offences.

Judicial Districts.

Mr. Lacock, submitted a resolution for instructing the judiciary committee to inquire into the expediency of dividing the state of Pennsylvania into two judicial districts.

Mississippi Senators

The senate having decided the mode in which the senators from the new state of Mississippi should draw lots for the classes of senators, the ceremony took place. Mr. Williams is to serve for six, Mr. Leake for four years from the fourth day of March last.

Internal Duties and Mint Bill.

The bill for the abolition of the internal duties was received from the house of representatives,

read twice and referred to the committee on Finance.

The mint bill was also received and read.

Public Land Titles.

Mr. Campbell submitted for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for authorizing those who hold titles derived from the state of North Carolina, to lands in that part of the state of Tennessee to which the Indian claim has not been extinguished, to have the boundaries or other land marks of their claims ascertained, and re-marked, or otherwise identified, in order to perpetuate the evidence to support the same.

Mr. Campbell gave notice that on Monday he should ask leave to introduce a bill to authorize the state of Tennessee to issue grants and perfect titles to certain entries and locations of land therein described.

Several parts of the president's message were referred to standing committees within whose province they fall.

A report was received from the secretary of the treasury, explaining the reasons for not transferring the balances from the state banks to the bank of the United States.

Adjourned to Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

South American Affairs.

Friday, Dec. 5. Sundry petitions were received and referred to various committees: after which,

Mr. Robertson of Lou. offered the following resolution for consideration:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to lay before the House of Representatives such information as he may possess and think proper to communicate, relative to the independence and political condition of the provinces of Spanish America.

The resolution having been read—

Mr. Robertson took an animated view of the situation and struggles of the Patriots of South America, which we are sorry our limits do not admit of giving in full. Mr. R. went back as far as the year 1811, when he stated that Venezuela and the South American provinces had excited considerable interest; but that, owing to our war with England and other circumstances touching our individual concerns, a silence had been observed as regarded the affairs of that part of the continent. Adverting to the sympathy which the President in his message expressed, was felt throughout the Union in the affairs of our southern brethren. He descanted on the schemes and speculations of European politicians, and the excitement which their struggles for emancipation had occasioned in various Courts of Europe, even to that of Alexander, who, whilst he was inditing epistles on peace, and corresponding with visionaries on this side of the Atlantic on the establishment of universal pacification, was whetting his sword and caparisoning his Cossacks to add to the horrors of a war, which, even as it is now waged, may be denominated the war of death. The church too, said Mr. R. has begun to thunder its anathemas; and in a short time we may, perhaps, see the people of South America consigned, by pontifical

excommunication, body and soul, to the infernal regions for the crimes of rebellion and republicanism. Under such a view of the afflictions suffered by men who are fighting in that sacred cause for which the Americans of the North unsheathed their sword in the early days of our revolution, what citizen of these states but must feel a sympathy and an interest in their success? Mr. Robertson regretted that our acquaintance with the people of Spanish America was not of a more intimate character. Our feelings were all in unison, yet we disputed on various points which should no longer be suffered to be doubtful. He asked whether or not Mexico, Peru, Chili, Buenos Ayres, New Grenada and Venezuela, were independent—were they struggling for independence, or had they succumbed to their tyrannical oppressors—did they or did they not legislate, lay and collect taxes, raise armies and equip fleets?—These facts may be known to the President. It is well ascertained that there have been agents sent from various provinces to the United States. It is not probable that they remained silent—but whatever they have said, has not been made known to this house. Mr. R. said he wished for information that our judgment might sanction those sentiments which our hearts might approve. This house concluded Mr. R. will act as circumstances may require; but for myself, I have no hesitation to say, that, if it shall appear that the provinces of Spanish America, or any of them, are really independent, no earthly consideration shall prevent me, in my public character, from acknowledging them as sovereign states.

Mr. Forsyth moved to amend Mr. Robertson's resolution by inserting the qualification of *excepting such information as the President might deem the communication of, incompatible with the public interest*; to which Mr. Robertson signified his ready assent. The resolution, as modified, then passed nem. con. and a committee of two was appointed to wait on the President with it.

The Mint.

On motion of Mr. Seybert,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of revising and amending certain acts concerning the mint establishment of the United States, and that they have leave to report by bill.

The Chaplain.

On motion of Mr. Southard, the house proceeded to the appointment of a chaplain. Five candidates offered. Two ballottings took place without an election: on the third, Mr. Allison received 84 votes, and was duly elected.

Receipts and Expenditures.

The Speaker laid before the house a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, accompanied by printed copies, for the use of the house, of a statement of the receipts and expenditures of government for the year 1816; and

The house adjourned to Monday next.

Military Bounty Land.

Monday, Dec. 8—Mr. Johnson of Kentucky, reported a bill authorizing a commutation of soldiers' bounty lands.

[The first section of this bill provides that the soldiers of the late and present army shall be allowed to commute their land patents or claims for money, at the rate of one dollar and forty cents

per acre, to be paid in four annual instalments by the pension agents appointed in the several states; provided that there be in all cases a complete relinquishment of all claims on said lands by the commutators to the United States. The second section of the bill makes the appropriation necessary to carry the first into effect.]

The bill was twice read and committed.

Amelia Island and Spanish Patriots.

Mr. Rhea offered the following resolution: *Resolved*, That the president be requested to lay before the house of representatives any information he may possess, and think proper to communicate, relative to the proceedings of certain persons who took possession of Amelia Island at the mouth of the St. Mary's river, near the boundary of the state of Georgia, in the summer of the present year, and made an establishment there; and also any information he hath, and may think proper to communicate, relative to an establishment made, at an earlier period, by persons of the same description, in the gulf of Mexico, at a place called Galvezton, within the limits of the United States, as we contend, under the cession of Louisiana; together with the reason inducing him to issue orders to suppress the said establishment.

This occasioned considerable debate. Mr. Forsyth objected to the resolution, upon the grounds that it would be indecorous in the house to ask for the reason of the measure in question, when they were distinctly and satisfactorily avowed in the message of the president; and moved to strike out the last clause of the proposed resolution. He had no objection to any information desired, if asked for unconnected with the clause he had excepted to.

The resolution was also opposed by Mr. Holmes of Massachusetts; Mr. Robertson of Louisiana, and others, considering it as embraced in the resolution of Friday, and that the house should wait a day or two, to see whether they would not obtain, without further call, all the information which they desired from the executive.

The resolution however, was ultimately adopted with the amendment of Mr. Forsyth.

During the debate, Mr. Nelson, of Virginia, twice addressed the house, but was interrupted in his remarks. The substance of them we shall endeavor to give in our next number.

Darien, Georgia, Port of Entry.

On motion of Mr. Forsyth, the committee of commerce and manufactures were instructed to inquire into the expediency of making Darien, in the state of Georgia, a port of entry and delivery.

New edition of the Laws.

On motion of Mr. Ingham of Pennsylvania, a joint resolution was passed to a third reading authorizing a distribution of the new edition of the laws of the Union to such members of the present congress as have not received them.

Public Lands in Jeffersonville.

On motion of Mr. Hendricks, of Indiana.

Resolved, That the committee on the public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing Joel Earwood to transfer to other vacant lands in the Jeffersonville district any monies he may have paid on the north east quarter of section twenty-one, town six, and range nine, in said district.

State of Mississippi.

On motion of Mr. Nelson, of Virginia, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the resolution from the senate for admitting the state of Mississippi into the Union. The constitution of the state having been read through at the suggestion of Mr. Taylor, the committee rose and reported their agreement to the resolution; which was then read a third time, and finally passed.

And the house adjourned.

Extraordinary Increase.

Thursday Dec. 9.—Among other petitions the following was presented by Mr. McCoy of Va. from an honest couple in his district, who represent that they have been united in wedlock's happy bonds for seven and twenty years, in which time they have added to our population twenty children, nineteen of whom are living, and whom they have maintained by the product of their manual labor. Conceiving themselves entitled to the favor of congress on that score, they pray for a donation of public land to make their declining years more easy to them. The petition was referred to the committee of public lands.

Election Contested.

A petition was also presented from C. Hammond, contesting the election of Mr. Herrick, of Ohio, a member of this house, on the ground of his having at the time of his election, and until a few days before he took his seat here, held the office of attorney of the United States for the district of Ohio. The petition was read and referred to the committee of elections.

Internal Duties.

Mr. Lowndes, from the committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill to abolish the internal duties. [The repeal to take place from and after the 31st day of the present month.] The bill was twice read and committed.

The Mint.

Mr. Seybert, from a select committee, reported a bill supplementary to the act concerning the mint. [The object of the bill is to continue the mint at Philadelphia.] The bill was twice read.

Military establishments.

Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky with a view to ascertain the sense of the house on certain points, that the labors of the military committee should not be unnecessarily troublesome to the house, and laborious to themselves, submitted the following resolutions to the consideration of the house:

1. *Resolved*, That it is expedient to provide by law for the widows and orphans of the soldiers of the regular army who were killed in battle, or died in service during the late war with Great Britain.

2. That it is expedient to provide by law for the disbanded and deranged officers of the army of the United States, who served in the late war with Great Britain, donations in land, viz: to each major general 1,280 acres; to each brigadier general 1,120 acres; to each colonel or lieutenant colonel 960 acres; to each major 800 acres; to each captain 640 acres; to each subaltern 480 acres.

3. That it is expedient to establish by law, three additional military academies; one in the vicinity of Fort Dearborn, in the state of South Carolina, one in the vicinity of Newport, in the

state of Kentucky, one in the vicinity of Harper's Ferry, in the state of Virginia; one third of the cadets to be sons of officers and soldiers of the late army who died in the service of the United States during the late war.

4. That it is expedient to organize by law a corps of invalids, to be composed of one thousand men.

5. That it is expedient to make provision by law for the repeal of so much of the act of July 6, 1812, as authorizes additional pay and emolument to brevet rank in the army of the United States.

6. That the military peace establishment of the United States shall consist hereafter of eight thousand men, including the corps of invalids. Provided that the corps of engineers, the general staff and ordnance department shall be retained as at present established: Provided also, that no part of the army shall be disbanded in consequence of said reduction, but the same shall be effected by permitting vacancies as they occur, to remain.

7. That it is expedient to provide by law for an additional national armory, to be located on the western waters.

8. That it is expedient to provide for an additional ration to each commissioned officer in the army of the United States.

9. That the committee on military affairs be instructed to report bills embracing these objects.

Mr. Johnson accompanied these resolutions with some pertinent remarks, considered individually and collectively.

The several resolutions were received, and referred to a committee of the whole house for consideration.

Public Roads.

On motion of Mr. Tucker, of Virginia,

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to cause to be laid before the house of representatives information of what roads have been made, or are in progress, under the executive authority of the United States; the states and territories through which they pass or are intended to pass; the periods when they were ordered to be made, and how far they have been executed.

Commutation of Bounty Lands, &c.

Mr. Spencer of New-York, offered a resolution, with a view to enable him to act understandingly on the commutation bill, which, after some desultory conversation as to the particular form of it, was adopted in the following shape:—

"*Resolved*, That the secretary of war be directed to communicate to this house the number of warrants issued for military bounty lands, by virtue of any laws of congress, to soldiers who served during the late war against Great Britain, the quantity of land included in those warrants, and the probable quantity of land which will yet be necessary to satisfy claims for bounty lands under those laws."

Mr. Walker, of North-Carolina, after referring to cases within his knowledge, in which minors who served in the late army, had not, because of their minority, received a bounty in land on their discharge from the army, moved the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That it is expedient to provide by law, that all minors who were regularly enlisted in the late or present army of the United States, and who served twelve months or upwards, and have been honorably discharged, shall be entitled

to an adequate bounty in land or to an adequate commutation of such bounty in money."

This resolve was referred to the same committee of the whole to whom were referred Mr. Johnson's resolutions.

Exempted from Taxation.

On motion of Mr. Taylor, of New-York,
Resolved, That the committee on the public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of exempting from taxation, the military bounty lands in the Missouri and Illinois territories, for five years after the patents have been issued.

Foreign Seamen.

Mr. Whitman, of Massachusetts, offered for consideration the following resolution :

Resolved, That the committee of commerce and manufactures be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the apprehending and securing foreign seamen deserting from foreign vessels while in the ports of the United States, contrary to their engagements to serve on board such vessels.

In support of this resolution, Mr. W. observed, a similar provision existed in all foreign ports, by which our masters of vessels were able to secure their seamen ; and our laws secured to our own vessels in our ports, the like privilege. It was obviously expedient, therefore, to extend this provision to foreign vessels also, in regard to which it was more necessary, and to which the remedy was not applicable, unless in cases where it had been erroneously applied by a misapprehension of the law in the case.

The resolution was adopted without opposition.

Pensions, &c. in West Tennessee.

Mr. Claiborne, of Tennessee, moved a resolution instructing the committee on pensions to inquire into the expediency of establishing by law an office for the payment of pensions and revolutionary claims, within the district of West Tennessee.

Mr. C. explained the object of his motion ; which was predicated on the fact, that, owing to the location of the pension agent for Tennessee, a person in West Tennessee having business with him, might with more ease resort to this city, could it be here transacted, than he could travel to the residence of the agent, &c.

The motion was agreed to.

Post Roads.

On motion of Mr. Ingham, of Pennsylvania, the committee on post roads were instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a post road from Fort Montgomery, in Monroe county, in Alabama territory, to Blakely, in Mobile county ; and,

On motion of Mr. Allen, of Vermont, the same committee were instructed to inquire as to establishing a post road from Burlington to Craftsbury, thence through Strasburgh to Barton, in Vermont.

Duties on Salt and Fish.

On motion of Mr. McCoy, of Virginia,

Resolved, That the committee of ways and means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of repealing the law laying a duty on imported salt, granting a bounty on pickled fish exported, and allowing a bounty to vessels employed in the fisheries.

The Judiciary.

Mr. Claiborne, of Tennessee, moved the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to inquire whether any, and, if any, what alterations and amendments are necessary to be made in the judiciary.

Mr. C. said, that perhaps no subject would come before the house at the present session, of more importance to the people, than that embraced in his motion. A good judiciary is certainly indispensable to protect the rights and interests of the people. That certainly cannot be said to be a good one which fails to administer justice. Such, however, Mr. C. said, was the fact in regard to the country which he represented. One Circuit Judge was assigned to Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio : the labors of that Circuit were too Herculean for the constitution of any man whatever. The consequence was, that in Tennessee, being the last district in the Judge's Circuit, where the cases before the court are numerous and important, there were no trials—for the last five years there had not been, perhaps, twenty causes disposed of. The time of the Judge was so divided as to make it impossible for him to devote the necessary time to the court in Tennessee. Unless some remedy was provided, there was in that state an operative denial of justice as to the Laws of the United States. It was unnecessary for him, he said, to go now into detail, and state what alterations, in his opinion, ought to be made in the judiciary system. That was a wide field, which he had no doubt would be properly explored by the committee having that subject in charge, and fully acquainted with its merits. He hoped that something would at least be done for the relief of the people of Tennessee.

Mr. Hopkinson, of Pennsylvania, rose, merely to mention the fact, that, at the last session of Congress, two important bills had been reported on this subject by the judiciary committee, but not acted on by the house. He invited the attention of gentlemen to these bills, to see how nearly or remotely they approached to their ideas of a necessary reform of the judiciary.

Mr. Claiborne's motion was agreed to.

And the house adjourned.

West's Picture.

Wednesday, Dec. 10.—Mr. Newton, of Virginia, from the committee of commerce and manufactures, reported a bill to remit the duties on a painting presented to the Pennsylvania hospital ; which was twice read.

Representative Qualifications.

Mr. Forsyth, of Georgia, offered for consideration the following resolution, to obtain a decision on a question raised by a memorial yesterday presented, contesting the election of a member from Ohio, and which Mr. F. considered of great importance :

Resolved, That the committee of elections be instructed to inquire and report what persons, elected to serve in the house of representatives, have accepted or held offices under the government of the United States, since the 4th day of March, 1817, and how far their right to a seat in this house is affected by it.

The adoption of this resolution was opposed by Mr. Taylor, of New-York, Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, Mr. Seybert, of Pennsylvania, Mr. Liver-

more, of New-Hampshire, and Mr. W. P. Maclay, of Pennsylvania, and was supported by Mr. Forsyth.

On taking the question, there appeared an equal division of the house, 85 voting for, and 85 against it. The speaker gave the casting vote in favor of the motion, which was therefore adopted.

Claims for Property Lost.

The speaker laid before the house a letter from Richard Bland Lee, esq. commissioner of claims, &c. transmitting a statement of facts, as directed by the act of last session, in several cases of claims for indemnity for losses of property during the war, from the state of Maryland; which were referred to the committee of claims.

Repeal of Internal Duties.

The house resolved into a committee of the whole on the bill to abolish the internal duties, Mr. Desha being called to the chair.

The report of the committee of ways and means, which accompanied the bill, is in the following words:

Report of the Committee of Ways and Means, accompanying a Bill to abolish Internal Duties.

The committee of ways and means, to whom has been referred so much of the president's message as respects revenue, report—

That they have supposed that they should best comply with the intentions of the house, by directing their first attention to the repeal of the internal duties, which occupied its deliberations during the latter part of its last session, and has been since recommended by the president. From the report of the secretary of the treasury, it appears that the clear revenue which will have accrued during the year 1817, will be about twenty-four millions and a half of dollars, while the ordinary annual expenditure, (including the provision for the extinguishment of the public debt) is estimated at less than twenty-one millions and a half. While the committee do not consider the importations of the three last years as furnishing a certain criterion for those of future years, they believe, that without a diminution of our exports, which is not to be anticipated, or a very considerable reduction in their value, the estimate of a revenue under the present laws, of \$24,525,000, as made by the secretary of the treasury may be safely relied on for many succeeding years. No doubt can be entertained under the circumstances of the United States, as to the propriety of reducing a revenue so far exceeding their ordinary expenses, and the committee recommend a general repeal of the internal duties. This will leave, according to the estimates of the secretary, a revenue of about twenty-two millions, exceeding the ordinary expenditure by something more than half a million.

Some difficulties will always be found in determining the period at which the collection of a tax shall cease. The consideration, however, of the large proportion of the internal duties which will become payable in January, induces the committee to recommend that all internal duties should terminate with the year 1817.

The entire amount which will have accrued to the government on account of the internal duties, exclusive of the direct tax, from the 1st of January, 1814, to the 31st of December, 1817, may be estimated at more than seventeen mil-

lions, and the receipts for the same time, at upwards of fifteen millions.

The following statement will show the receipts of each of the three first years, with an estimate of those of the 4th year:

Accruing Duties.		Duties received.	
1814—	3,262,197 12		1,910,995 01
1815—	6,242,503 55		4,976,329 86
1816—	4,638,799 34		5,284,114 96
1817—	3,002,000 00		3,000,000 00
17,140,500 01		15,168,636 85	

Expenses of collection on sums received.

1814—	148,991 78	or 7 8-10 per cent.
1815—	279,377 57	or 5 6-10
1816—	253,440 42	or 4 8-100
1817—	180,000 00	or 6 per cent.

Total, 861,709 87 or 5 7-10 per cent.

The charges of collection upon this revenue have certainly been higher than those upon the impost. These have, however, been very different at different times. Mr. Gallatin estimated them, in 1800, at something less than 6 per cent. on monies collected from the people. Mr. Dallas, in one of his reports, supposes them, including fees, to be about 5 per cent. and they have been still lower in the three last years. This difference in the expense of collecting internal and foreign duties, will not appear extraordinary, when we remember how few are the domestic products, which are subject to duty, and of foreign, which are exempt from it; how long and regularly the impost has been acquiring maturity and improvement, and how frequent have been the changes, and how short the duration of our system of internal revenue.

In abandoning that portion of our taxes which is considered as the most inconvenient, neither congress or the nation will form so exaggerated a notion of these inconveniences, as to deter them from again applying to the same resource, when the necessities of the state shall require it. It is one of the duties of congress to provide, when it can do so, that the revenue shall be collected from sources which may comport with public convenience; but it is a higher duty to provide, from whatever sources the constitution may have opened to its operation, such a revenue as shall not permit the fate of a war, and the most important interests of the nation, to depend on precarious and often extravagant loans. The government can have no reasonable fear but that the circumstances which make internal taxes necessary, will find in the people a disposition promptly to pay them. The committee believe that in any future emergency, which shall require a resort to these taxes, the house of representatives will, unhesitatingly, perform their peculiar duty, by instituting them in a scale suited to the occasion.

Rank of Surgeons in the Navy.

Thursday, Dec. 11.—On motion of Mr. Parria, Resolved, That the committee on naval affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of altering the rank and emoluments of surgeons in the navy of the United States.

Land Offices.

On motion of Mr. Scott, of Missouri, the committee on public lands were instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing land offices for the sale of public lands in the Missouri ter-

ritory, at the following places: at the town of Arkansas, in the county of Arkansas, at the town of Jackson, in the county of Cape Gerardeau at the seat of justice, in the county of Lawrence, and at the seat of justice in the county of Howard.

Canals.

On motion of Mr. Holmes,
Resolved, That the committee on roads and canals, inquire into the expediency of providing by law for constructing a navigable canal to unite the waters of lake Michigan, with those of the Mississippi.

That they also inquire into the expediency of providing for constructing a navigable canal to unite the waters of the Tennessee with those of the Tombigbee.

That they also inquire into the expediency of providing for improving the navigation of the Tennessee.

Post Roads.

On motion of Mr. Sampson, of Mass. the committee on the post office and post roads were instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a post road direct from the East Parish of Bridgewater, through Halifax, Plympton and Kingston, to Plymouth in Massachusetts.

Previous Question.

Mr. Bassett, of Va. submitted a proposition to amend the Rules so as to dispense with the previous question of *consideration*, on any motion submitted to the house. This motion is of a nature required by the rules to lie on the table.

Congressional Printing, &c.

Mr. Bassett, of Virginia, submitted a motion for an inquiry by the committee of accounts into the manner in which the printing and stationery of the house are executed and furnished; which was agreed to.

Payment of Claims.

On motion of Forsyth, of Georgia,

Resolved, That the secretary of war be instructed to lay before this house an account of the sums awarded to different claimants by the commissioner appointed under the act of the 9th of April, 1816; the species of property for which they have been respectively avaried, distinguishing what sums have been paid and the causes which have prevented or delayed the payment of the residue.

Disabled Officers and Soldiers.

On motion of Mr. Marr, of Ten. the military committee were instructed to inquire into the expediency of making provision for such officers and soldiers of the militia as have become disabled, from diseases contracted in the service of the United States, and for the widows and orphans of those who, from like causes, have died since they returned home.

Effect of Judicial Proceedings, and Publication of the Laws of the United States.

On motion of Mr. Spencer, of N. Y. the committee on the judiciary were instructed to inquire whether any, and, if any, what legal provisions are necessary to prescribe the effect which the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of one state shall have in the courts of any other state; and also to inquire what provisions by law are necessary to ensure a more prompt publication of the laws of the United States, and a more speedy and general distribution of them.

U. S. Army—Military Posts—Fortifications.

On motion of Mr. Mercer, of Va.

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to cause to be laid before this house, a return of the present strength of the army of the United States, with the distribution thereof among the several military posts which it is designed to protect, together with any information which he may be able to afford respecting the competency of such force to preserve and defend the fortifications among which it is distributed, and to aid in constructing and to defend such other military works, if any, as it may be in the contemplation of the government to erect for the more effectual security of the United States, and of the several territories thereof.

Claims of Georgia Militia.

On motion of Mr. Cobb, of Geo. a committee was appointed to inquire into the claims of certain detachments of the militia of Georgia, for services performed in the defence of that state during the years 1793 and 1794, by orders from the executive of that state, under a discretionary power communicated by the war department; and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

The yeas and nays on the repeal of the internal duties are omitted until our next, to give place to the following late and important intelligence.

CAPTURE OF GENERAL MINA.

The schooner Cuba, capt. *Clarkner*, has arrived at Baltimore, in twelve days from Haranna, and brings the following intelligence, received at that place from capt. Montgomery, just arrived from Vera Cruz:

Translation.—Capture of the traitor MINA, by Col. ORRANTIA.

H. E. the Viceroy has just received by an extraordinary Courier, the following communication:

MOST EXCELLENT SIR.—Long live the King. The count of Silas, under date of the 27th, at 7 o'clock in the evening, writes me as follows:—

ESTEEMED SIR.—At last we have obtained the fruit of our labors—Mina has been taken alive and is now entering this place. They also bring the head of Moreno—they have taken the two other Herreras, a Frenchman and other officers of their infantry. We killed several when we attacked them, which was by surprise. All this has been achieved by Senor Orrantia, who left here at 10 o'clock at night with cavalry for el Baradito, near la Hachiqueza; which news so interesting, I communicate for the satisfaction of your excellency and of all the good and loving subjects of our sovereign, and I shall consider it very complete, if it gets to hand as expeditiously as I wish.

God preserve your Excellency many years.

Irapuato, October 28, 1817, 2 A. M.

JUAN DE PERGUERA.

To H. E. the Viceroy Don Juan, Ruiz de Apodaca.

His excellency not wishing to delay one moment the communication of such agreeable intelligence to the faithful vassals of the King our Lord, has commanded the immediate insertion of it in an Extraordinary Gazette, expecting every moment to receive the particulars of this important event.

Extraordinary Gazette of the Government of Mexico, Friday, 31st October, 1817.